

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 FEBRUARY 1983

Arens Appointment, Sharon Resignation

Ambassador Moshe Arens has agreed to become defense minister and will return to Israel shortly to assume the post, IDF Radio reported on 14 February citing an announcement by Prime Minister Menahem Begin's office. Earlier, the Cabinet approved the transfer of the post of defense minister from Ari'el Sharon to Prime Minister Begin and considered that the Kahan inquiry commission's recommendation regarding Sharon has now been implemented, the cabinet secretary announced after the 13 February cabinet meeting in a statement broadcast by IDF Radio. Before the Cabinet session, Sharon submitted a letter to Begin confirming his willingness to transfer the Defense Ministry to the prime minister but reaffirming that he had no intention of resigning from the Cabinet, the secretary noted. After a subsequent meeting with Begin, Sharon said in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio that he will remain a member of the Cabinet and will do "things that the prime minister will ask me to do." The opposition Labor Party meanwhile criticized Begin's decision to retain Sharon in the Cabinet and the Alignment decided to submit a no-confidence motion which will be discussed by the Knesset on 16 February, according to Jerusalem radio.

Arab Reaction to Sharon Resignation

Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali expressed hope that Sharon's resignation will give impetus to the Middle East peace process, Cairo radio reported.

Riyadh radio asserted that Prime Minister Begin preferred "to sacrifice" Sharon rather than allow his Cabinet to fall, but that Sharon's resignation has not put an end to the political crisis in Israel.

Lebanon Talks

The results of the 14 February talks at Khaldah will depend on the outcome of U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib's talks with Lebanese and Israeli officials, the Lebanese Information Ministry announced in a dispatch from Khaldah broadcast by Beirut radio. After a brief plenary session, the subcommittees on withdrawals and security arrangements and on ending the state of war began detailed discussions of technical points, the dispatch noted. According to Jerusalem radio, the talks centered on formulating agreements on military issues.

PLO Affairs

PLO faction leaders concluded preparatory meetings in Algiers for the 14 February Palestine National Council (PNC) session, Rabat radio reported on 12 February. A Palestinian source said the PNC will approve contacts between PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Jordan's King Husayn on a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation, endorse the Fes summit plan, and "not formally reject" U.S. President Ronald Reagan's peace initiative, the radio added. However, an earlier KUNA report quoting a PNC spokesman noted that the PLO leaders agreed on adherence to the Aden declaration which rejects the Reagan proposal and Damascus radio reported on 14 February that Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf declared the PLO's rejection of the plan.

In another development a Palestinian source reported that the USSR has asked Syria and Libya not to interfere in Palestinian affairs and to refrain from pressuring PLO leaders, according to the Amman paper SAWT ASH-SHA'B on 14 February.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iraqi military spokesman claimed that 15,258 Iranians were killed during 6-10 February fighting in the Ash-Shib region, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported on 13 February. Earlier, the Iraqi Navy and Air Force carried out a successful attack against Iran's Khark Island, hitting the island's western terminal and a moored oil tanker, INA asserted citing an Iraqi military spokesman. Iranian media have not reported or denied the attack. Iraqi military communiques broadcast by Baghdad radio and INA on 11-13 February reported continuing combat missions by Iraqi aircraft but little ground fighting while Iranian communiques broadcast by Tehran radio 11-13 February noted sporadic fighting and exchanges of fire.

In another development Iraqi President Saddam Husayn said that deserters and those who have not yet enlisted in the military service or internal security forces must join their units or report to their recruitment centers during a 12 February-1 March amnesty period, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported on 12 February citing an "open letter" from Husayn.

In a revolution anniversary speech on 11 February broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini urged the Iranian forces not to be overcome by pride as a result of their victories because this might lead to defeat. In another anniversary speech, President 'Ali Khamene'i declared that the forces in Iraq who are counting on Iran to deal the final blow to the Iraqi regime "will not have long to wait," according to Tehran radio.

Cheysson Tour

Jordan's King Husayn met with French External relations minister Claude Cheysson on 11 February and both sides reviewed Middle East developments, an Amman television report noted. According to an earlier television interview, Cheysson said France has a direct involvement in the region's events and declared that "we are trying to be as active as needed."

The French minister arrived in Iraq on 12 February and held talks with President Saddam Husayn on 13 February, INA reported. Cheysson conveyed a message from French President Francois Mitterrand emphasizing the strength of bilateral relations and President Husayn expressed deep appreciation for France's stand on the war with Iran, INA added. In comments to French correspondents on 12 February, Cheysson affirmed that French-Iraqi military contracts must be honored in full and that France must not appear to be changing its foreign policy in accordance with the latest developments in the Gulf war, Paris radio reported. The minister added that in the interests of peace it is necessary for Iraq to remain strong, the radio noted.

Egypt

Contacts With USSR -- "Secret" Egyptian-Soviet talks were recently held at the "highest level" to pave the way for the restoration of bilateral relations and the return of the Soviet ambassador to Cairo, the London magazine AL-MAJALLAH asserted.

Ghali Tour -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali presented a detailed report to President Husni Mubarak on his recent visits to Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon, MENA reported. Answering a question on whether this visit means that diplomatic relations will soon be restored, Ghali declared that bilateral relations between Egypt and each of these states in various fields are "more important than other formalities," MENA added.

'Ismat as-Sadat Trial -- A court of ethics' verdict has imposed custodianship on all of the funds and properties of 'Ismat as-Sadat and his family, according to MENA. As-Sadat and his two sons received 1-year prison sentences because they are a menace to society, MENA noted.

Syria

Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has made a "quick secret" visit to Moscow in the past few days, Beirut radio reported on 12 February citing Arab diplomatic sources. Earlier, in a predeparture statement, Deputy Head of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department Karen Brutents stressed the importance of bolstering "militant" bilateral relations, according to Damascus radio.

Moroccan-Algerian Relations

Moroccan-Algerian relations are expected to develop significantly over the next few days because Algeria passed on information to Morocco regarding a "U.S.-backed hostile internal movement," the London paper AL-HAWADITH disclosed on 11 February. The paper added that the information helped preempt the movement before it could materialize.

OPEC

Commenting on Saudi Petroleum Minister Yamani's recent statement indicating that an oil price reduction is inevitable, an official Saudi source stressed that nothing has been decided so far on reducing prices or increasing production, Riyadh radio reported on 12 February. Later, Iranian Petroleum Minister Seyyed Mohammad Gharazi called for an extraordinary session of OPEC oil ministers to reconfirm the \$34-per-barrel base price for crude oil, according to a 13 February Tehran radio report.

Iran

Iran and Mozambique issued a joint statement on 13 February calling for the establishment of diplomatic relations and an exchange of ambassadors as soon as possible in order to expand bilateral relations, IRNA reported.

Afghanistan

Afghan "mujahidin" damaged seven helicopters and killed many foreign soldiers during an attack on Jalalabad airport, Karachi radio reported on 14 February.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 031

14 February 1983

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Palestinian Leaders Prepare for Algiers PNC Meeting [KUNA]	A 1
'Heated' Talks Reported [WAKH]	A 1
13 Feb Meeting Topics [Algiers VOP]	A 2
Draft Resolutions Reported [QNA]	A 2
Solution With Israel Sought [AFP]	A 3
AR-RA'Y: Syria Delays PLO Member's Departure [14 Feb]	A 4
USSR Tells Syria, Libya Not To Pressure Palestinians [Amman SAWT ASH-SHAB'B 14 Feb]	A 4
PLO Official Justifies Meetings With Israelis [QNA]	A 4

EGYPT

Secret 'Highest Level' Talks Held With USSR [London AL-MAJALLAH 12-18 Feb]	D 1
Ghali Comments on Sharon's Resignation [Radio Monte Carlo]	D 1
Court Detains 'Ismat as-Sadat, Impounds Assets	D 2

IRAQ

Navy, Air Force Raid Iran's Khark Island	E 1
Chief of Staff Comments on Recent Battles	E 1
Armed Forces General Command Communiques	E 2
No 997	E 2
No 998	E 3
No 999	E 3
Spokesman Says 15,258 Iranians Killed 6-10 Feb	E 4

SYRIA

CPSU's Brutents, Delegation Depart 11 February	H 1
Beirut: Khaddam Made Secret Visit to Moscow	H 1
ATH-THAWRAH on Israeli Threats of Aggression	H 1

ISRAEL

Continued Reaction to Inquiry Commission's Findings	I 1
Begin-Sharon Meeting	I 1
Peres on Commission Conclusions	I 1
Labor on Cabinet Decision	I 3
Alignment Demands Sharon Resignation	I 3
Eytan: IDF Takes Action	I 4
Sharon Adviser on Transfer	I 4
Arens Accepts Defense Portfolio	I 4
Syria Getting New Weapons From USSR, Advisers	I 4
Progress Reported in Negotiations With Lebanon	I 4

WEST AFRICA

NIGERIA

Government Asked To Deport All Illegal Aliens	T 1
Nigerians Approve of Deportations	T 1
Withdrawal of All Nigerian Passports Urged	T 1
Ibadan University Students Go on Rampage	T 2
University Closed	T 2

SOUTHERN AFRICA

LESOTHO

Main Gasoline Depot Destroyed; LLA Blamed [Johannesburg]	U 1
'Enemy' Hitting 'Economic Targets' [Umtata]	U 1

SOUTH AFRICA

Blast Damages Drakensberg Administration Building	U 1
---	-----

SWAZILAND

Police Thwart Unsuccessful Coup Attempt [Johannesburg CITY PRESS 13 Feb]	U 1
Government Denies Coup Attempt [THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND 14 Feb]	U 2

PALESTINIAN LEADERS PREPARE FOR ALGIERS PNC MEETING

LD121138 Kuwait KUNA in English 1017 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, Feb 12 (KUNA) -- The meeting of leaders of Palestinian divisions Saturday was "understanding and positive" on a number of issues, according to Palestinian sources. The Palestinian National Council [PNC] spokesman, Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, said that leaders of the Palestinian divisions agreed on allowing the council to finalize drafts on issues which were left open.

In a press conference following the meeting, 'Abd ar-Rahman noted that members of the PLO's Executive Committee, speaker of the PNC, and other participants announced their willingness to adhere to all issues which were agreed on in the three sessions held over the past two days. The Palestinian source told KUNA that "heated discussion" took place between top Palestinian leaders relating to 'Arafat's inquiry into media campaigns directed against him by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

'Abd ar-Rahman stated that during the first session meetings of the Palestinian leaders discussion on issues related to PLO relations with Jordan, Syria and Egypt in addition to the Israeli democratic progressive movement were frozen. He added that 'Arafat stressed "discussion should be made from a Palestine revolution angle" affirming that there is not a Palestinian division representing a certain Arab regime.

Palestinian leaders agreed on adhering to the Aden declaration, which rejects the Reagan peace proposal, as the basis for the political approach to military and political integration on the Palestinian level, the official noted. The PNC spokesman pointed out that Palestinian leaders approved adhering to a unified strategy which calls for "a unity of tactics" and added that a common strategy is not possible while tactical differences remain. The leaders also decided on promoting meetings between them following the PNC conference.

Furthermore, 'Abd ar-Rahman cited that Palestinian leaders agreed on establishing relations between the Palestinian resistance and Arab regimes on an equal [words indistinct] including the rejection of any attempt to effect any Palestinian division's decision-making.

Answering a question on whether the three meetings of Palestinian leaders settled differences between Palestinian groups, 'Abd ar-Rahman said, "I do not understand why some people particularly in the West consider our differences as divisions while differences in Israel are described as democracy."

The spokesman denied the possibility of amendment of Palestine protocol during the PNC meeting.

Palestinian leaders announced their adherence to accept and implement resolutions of the PNC, 'Abd ar-Rahman concluded.

'Heated' Talks Reported

GF131158 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Feb (WAKH) -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that during his meeting with a number of Palestinian leaders in Algiers he made no deviation whatever from the Aden statement with regard to the strategy of Palestinian political and military action for the next stage.

The UAE paper AL-BAYAN quoted high-ranking sources as saying that an important and "heated" meeting was held between 'Arafat and a number of the leaders of Palestinian resistance factions in Algiers and that this meeting led to an agreement on the platform which will be discussed by the Palestine National Council for ratification.

The sources added that the discussion was sharp between 'Arafat and the leaders of As-Sa'iqah and the Popular Front -- General Command on relations between the PLO and Syria. The sources said that the leaders of As-Sa'iqah and the Popular Front demanded stronger relations with Syria. The views of 'Arafat -- which were backed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine -- focused on the need for such bolstering to be accomplished through bilateral and not unilateral contacts.

13 Feb Meeting Topics

LD140258 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] The session of the Palestinian leadership ended around 0300 today. Relations with Egypt were discussed. The Camp David line and agreements were condemned and the need to meet the Egyptian patriotic movement in order to discuss method, details, and safeguards concerning contacts with the Egyptian regime was affirmed.

At today's session, which began about 1000, questions regarding relations with Arab states and action in the enemy arena were raised in front of the entire Palestinian leadership.

Draft Resolutions Reported

GF141130 Doha QNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 14 Feb (QNA) -- The UAE paper AL-KHALIJ today carried a report from Algeria on the purported text of the draft political statement which will be issued by the 16th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] which begins today in Algiers. The draft concentrates on five points dealing with the Arab Fes plan, the U.S. President's plan for solving the Middle East issue, the special relations that link the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples, and adherence to the resolutions of the former PNC sessions.

The first point of the draft plan stresses the Fes summit resolutions as a minimum limit for Arab political moves that have to be integrated with all requirements of military action in order to change the balance of power in favor of the Arab struggle and rights.

On the U.S. President's plan, the draft notes that the Reagan plan -- in spirit and content -- neither meets the constant national rights of the Palestinian people nor does it constitute a sound and acceptable bases for a just solution to the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli dispute because it is designed to obliterate and liquidate Palestinian national rights by bypassing the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

The third point in the draft says that the PNC stresses the special relations that link the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples and also stresses the need to develop these relations in a way that conforms with the national interests of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples and the Arab nation in order to give the Palestinian people their just rights, including their rights to return home, to self-determination, and to an independent state.

The fourth point of the draft defines the nature of the future Palestinian-Jordanian relations by stressing that this relationship must be based on confederation after the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

The fifth point in the draft political statement stresses PNC adherence to resolutions of former PNC sessions, particularly those dealing with Jordan in addition to the PLO as sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Solution With Israel Sought

OW132350 Hong Kong AFP in English 2330 GMT 13 Feb 83

[By Rene Nabaa]

[Text] Algiers, Feb. 13 (AFP) -- The Palestinian National Council (PNC) will authorize Yasir 'Arafat to seek a diplomatic solution of the conflict with Israel, leaders of several factions indicated here tonight.

The one-week PNC session opening here late on Monday now looks likely to be the most decisive in the history of the council. It is the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) equivalent of a parliament.

One issue facing it is whether to give King Husayn of Jordan a mandate to sound out the Reagan administration about negotiations when he goes to Washington next month.

Another issue is whether negotiations should be on the basis of the plan proposed at the Arab summit in Fes, Morocco, which has been criticized by hard-liners in the PLO, or on the basis of the Reagan plan, to which they have still stronger objections.

The council would accord freedom of maneuver to the PLO Executive Committee headed by Mr. 'Arafat under four conditions, said a hard-line spokesman Sunday night -- Abdallah ash-Sharuf of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). The conditions would be:

- That only the PLO could speak for the Palestinian people in negotiations.
- That the PLO would refuse to let King Husayn of Jordan negotiate for it and would refuse to be part of a joint Arab negotiating delegation.
- Possible peace negotiations should lead to an independent Palestine.
- The Palestinian state would have close relations with Jordan (as suggested in U.S. President Reagan's peace plan), but the nature of those relations should only be determined after Palestine becomes independent.

Ash-Sharuf said PLO leaders had agreed (in four days of stormy deliberation concluded here on Sunday) that the Reagan plan was unacceptable. (It only calls for "administrative autonomy" of the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories, in "association" with Jordan.)

Earlier in the day, Abu Iyad, Mr. 'Arafat's second-in-command of Fatah, the biggest military organization, also rejected the Reagan plan. So did Nayif Hawatimah, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

The statements by top leaders Sunday night indicated they are willing to negotiate on the basis of the Fes plan. It implies recognition of Israel but states that east Jerusalem should be Palestine's capital. Mr Hawatimah denounced Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Egypt for trying to show that the Reagan proposals were compatible with those made at Fes. But both Mr Hawatimah and Abu Iyad indicated they did not oppose the idea of a federation with Jordan, provided a truly independent Palestinian state were set up on the Jordan West Bank and Gaza Strip, now occupied by the Israeli army.

The Palestinian National Council consists of 360 members chosen to represent all political, military and social groups, but Israel did not allow delegates from the occupied territories to leave for the coming council session.

AR-RA'Y: SYRIA DELAYS PLO MEMBER'S DEPARTURE

JN140800 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Feb 83 p 24

[Text] Algiers (AR-RA'Y) -- Umm Nasir, head of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's office, arrived in Algiers yesterday after Syrian security organs had delayed her departure from Syria for 24 hours.

In an exclusive statement to AR-RA'Y, Umm Nasir said that the Syrian security organs had delayed her departure on the pretext that she was carrying messages belonging to the PLO office in Damascus, a matter which is not allowed under Syrian security regulations.

USSR TELLS SYRIA, LIBYA NOT TO PRESSURE PALESTINIANS

JN140722 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Feb 83 p 1

[SAWT ASH-SHA'B team dispatch from Algiers]

[Text] A Palestinian source has said that the USSR has asked Syria and Libya not to interfere in Palestinian affairs and to refrain from putting pressure on Palestinian leaders. Yasir 'Arafat met with a Soviet delegation yesterday.

PLO OFFICIAL JUSTIFIES MEETINGS WITH ISRAELIS

GF081338 Doha QNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Doha, 8 Feb (QNA) -- 'Imad Shaqqur, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser for Israeli affairs, has stressed that the Palestinian-Israeli meetings are taking place under three conditions: recognition of the Palestinian presence and the Palestinian people's right for self-determination, establishing a state on their land, and recognition of the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative for the Palestinian people. In a statement printed in today's issue of the Qatari newspaper AR-RAYAH, Shaqqur said these meetings are under the auspices of the Palestinian National Council resolution since dialogue with the progressive forces in Israel is a struggle need which serves the Palestinian people's interest. "The Israelis with whom we met, particularly in Tunis, are a political bloc under the name of the Israeli-Palestinian Council of Peace," he said, pointing out this council's role in supporting the Palestinian people and in confronting the Zionist criminals which was manifested in the demonstrations which were held in Tel Aviv during the Zionist invasion of Lebanon and the resignations of senior Israeli officers in protest against this invasion.

On the use of such meetings, Shaqqur said they are a beginning of transferring the conflict between the Palestinian resistance and the Zionist invaders to the Israeli people in order to awaken them on their rulers' crimes which ultimately harms and hurts them.

SECRET 'HIGHEST LEVEL' TALKS HELD WITH USSR

PML40833 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 12-18 Feb 83 p 13

[From "AL-MAJALLAH correspondents' dispatches"]

[Text] Egyptian-Soviet talks were recently held at the highest level and in strict secrecy to pave the way for the restoration of relations between the two countries and the return of the Soviet ambassador to Cairo. A ranking Soviet diplomat has expressed hope for the return of Egyptian-Soviet relations to their normal level in the near future on the basis of mutual respect and mutual interests. He emphasized that he would, from his position, work for that goal out of his faith in the importance of Egypt's role in the Arab world, in Africa and in the Nonaligned Movement.

GHALI COMMENTS ON SHARON'S RESIGNATION

JN111919 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Interview with Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, by Radio Monte Carlo Cairo correspondent Huda Tawfiq in Cairo and carried within "It Happened Tomorrow" program -- date not given; recorded]

[Text] [Ghali] We can say that Sharon's resignation has not come as a surprise because the (?studies) conducted here in Cairo affirmed that he was responsible for the Sabra and Shatila massacres, and hence the inquiry commission would have indicted him. Of course there were various possibilities such as (?his) resignation, the government's resignation or new elections. The measure taken was the defense minister's resignation. The government remains as it is.

As for the effect of this resignation on the current Israeli-Lebanese negotiations, on the possible future negotiations concerning the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and on the Middle East crisis, it is very difficult to give an accurate answer. However, we can offer certain conjectures. This resignation may strengthen the Israeli school of thought which believes in dialogue and negotiations. We support such schools of thought because we are of the view that the Middle East crisis can be solved only through negotiations. This resignation may give a new impetus to the peace process both concerning the negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian sides and the negotiations on Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

[Huda Tawfiq] Does the instability and future of the Israeli Government hamper Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon?

[Ghali] I do not think that a resignation of a minister constitutes a cause for instability. The government has a parliamentary majority. If the Israeli religious parties do not take the decisive step of allying themselves with the Israeli Labor Party, the government will continue with a new defense minister. This may lead or [word indistinct] to a new position concerning the coming negotiations.

[Huda Tawfiq] You met with the Lebanese leaders recently. What are the views of the Lebanese side?

[Ghali] The Lebanese side demands an immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and is of the view that the continued presence of these foreign forces will lead to further instability in Lebanon. Egypt supports this view and says that the withdrawal is a basic precondition which will enable us to move on other levels.

Egypt believes that if these foreign forces do not withdraw from Lebanon the moves to find a solution to the Middle East crisis will become difficult.

[Huda Tawfiq] Will Sharon's disappearance help the U.S. Administration to influence the Begin government?

[Ghali] Sharon's resignation will give a new impetus to the peace process and to the U.S. moves in the Middle East.

COURT DETAINS 'ISMAT AS-SADAT, IMPOUNDS ASSETS

NC120942 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA) -- At its session held today under the presidency of Counselor Ahmad Rif'at Khafajah, the Court of Ethics has handed down a verdict imposing custodianship on the funds and on all the properties of 'Ismat as-Sadat and of the members of his family.

The court has also decided to uphold the decision made by the socialist prosecutor to detain 'Ismat as-Sadat and his two sons, Tal'at and Jalal, for 1 year at the Mazra'at Turrah Prison because they are dangerous to society. The court has also decided to keep Anwar 'Ismat as-Sadat in preventive detention for 1 year in view of the danger that he poses to society.

The court decided to reject the socialist public prosecutor's application for the preventive detention for 1 year of Nadia 'Ismat as-Sadat. The court has also fixed the expenditure needed by the socialist public prosecutor for managing the impounded funds and properties -- amounting to 127 million pounds -- at 5 percent of their net annual income.

The court has also allocated 100 pounds as a comprehensive monthly stipend for 'Ismat as-Sadat and each of his sons Tal'at, Jalal, Anwar and their dependents. Counselor Dr Adhad Rif'at Khafajah elucidated to the court that, under the law for the protection of ethics from disgrace, and prior to the expiration of the preventive detention -- not exceeding 1 year -- the socialist public prosecutor may ask the court to permit the [imprisonment] order to remain in force for other periods whose total will not exceed 5 years.

The socialist public prosecutor had referred 'Ismat as-Sadat and the members of his family to the Court of Ethics, requesting that all their funds and properties be placed under custodianship on the charge of having committed acts tending to harm the country's economic interests and to corrupt political life.

In the referral of 'Ismat as-Sadat's family to the court, the socialist public prosecutor had noted that he had received a large number of reports by the citizens and by the company [concerned with the case] concerning the fact that the members of this family were exploiting influence as well as their kinship with departed President Anwar as-Sadat.

The socialist public prosecutor heard the testimonies of 95 witnesses, including senior officials of ministries and public authorities and citizens on the violations perpetrated by the members of 'Ismat as-Sadat's family. Furthermore, and during the trial of the defendants, the Court of Ethics heard the testimonies of 45 witnesses for the prosecution and for the defense. It is worth noting that under the law for the protection of ethics from disgrace, it is permissible for those sentenced by the Court of Ethics to challenge these sentences before the Supreme Court of Ethics within 60 days of the date of sentencing.

NAVY, AIR FORCE RAID IRAN'S KHARK ISLAND

JN122100 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2035 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Feb (INA) -- This evening the Iraqi Navy, in coordination with the Air Force, dealt a strong, direct, and effective blow to the Iran's Khark Island. An Iraqi military spokesman announced this in a statement to INA. The spokesman stressed that the western terminal of Khark Island and its installations and loading facilities were hit. He added that an oil tanker docking at the terminal was also hit.

The spokesman asserted that fire and columns of smoke could be seen with the naked eye billowing from the enemy targets which were hit and destroyed by our naval units and Air Force. The following is the text of that statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

At 1832 today and according to a bold plan coordinated between our Navy and Air Force, a strong, direct, and effective blow was dealt to the Iran's Khark Island during which the western terminal and its installations and loading facilities were hit. An oil tanker docked at the terminal was also hit.

Heavy columns of smoke could be seen with the naked eye rising over the enemy targets, which were hit and destroyed by our naval forces and the valiant Air Force. Thus, our heroic naval forces, which are rejoicing in our great people's celebrations of the victories of our brave army in the immortal Ash-Shib battle in the Maysan operational sector, are asserting their great ability to direct the harshest and strongest blows to the treacherous enemy and its installations wherever they may be. They are thus renewing the pledge to the leader president, Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, that they are ready at all times to carry out their duties until a complete victory over the rancorous Iranian enemy is reached. God is great and victory for our nation. Shame and disgrace to the enemies of humanity and peace in Qom and Tehran.

12 February 1983

CHIEF OF STAFF COMMENTS ON RECENT BATTLES

JN122156 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2108 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Feb (INA) -- Staff General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, chief of the Iraqi Army Staff, has stated that it is estimated that four Iranian infantry divisions, a number of armored brigades, and one mechanized infantry brigade took part in the recent offensive in the Ash-Shib area in the Maysan sector. In a television interview telecast here tonight, Shanshal said that the Iranian offensive covered 15 km but was concentrated on a 2-3 km stretch where the Iranian forces had established a foothold during the night. In the morning, the Iraqi forces launched a counterattack in which all the attacking Iranian units were destroyed, Shanshal added.

The chief of staff asserted that the heroism of the Iraqi forces and the defeat they imposed on the Iranian forces will destroy all the Iranian attempts to encroach on the Iraqi border. Shanshal talked about the five attacks launched by the Iranian forces 9-10 February in the Ash-Shib area in the Maysan sector and said that the enemy could not achieve any of its aims, that most of its forces were destroyed and that large quantities of weapons and equipment were captured. The chief of staff said that the combat operations carried out by the Iraqi forces have been ideal defensive operations. He said that the enemy movements were hampered, its offensive confronted and contained, and that the bulk of its attacking force was destroyed in record time by implementing all the stage of defense combat.

He stressed that the success of this battle was mainly due to the wise leadership represented in President Saddam Husayn's efforts in the various fields of war as well as the efforts of the field commanders. He also attributed this success to the units' steadfastness in their positions, the good training of the military units formed since the beginning of the Iranian aggression on Iraq in September 1980, the lessons benefited from the results of the previous battles, the provision of all battle requirements, and combat units' freedom of movement which was provided by the Iraqi Air Force.

Concluding, Shanshal emphasized that the Iraqi forces are ready to destroy any future attempts by the enemy to commit aggression across Iraq's international borders.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE

No 997

JN111811 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Communique No 997 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 11 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In defense of Iraq's sovereignty and independence and of the Arab nation's future and bright history, the noble Iraqis and their daring armed forces are continuing their just fighting against the forces of the aggressor Khomeyniite clique until this clique pursues the road of right and logic and learns its lesson from the bitter experience that its forces had in the Ash-Shib region during the past days. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Further to our military communiques Nos 994, 995, and 996 of 10 February 1983 on the victories our brave armed forces had scored over the treacherous, Iranian enemy forces in the glorious Ash-Shib battles in the Maysan operational sector, the losses of the invading aggressors, which have been counted, amounted to 4,786 dead, whose bodies still litter the battlefield, a huge number of wounded and well over 1,000 prisoners who have been evacuated to the rear lines. The enemy's losses also included 49 tanks, in conditions varying between destroyed and serviceable; 36 armored personnel carriers, in conditions varying between destroyed and serviceable; 12 excavators destroyed; 4 (? mine sweepers) destroyed and a number of various types of vehicles and a large quantity of medium- and short-range weapons as well as military equipment seized in a serviceable condition.
2. Our able fighter planes today resumed extensive daring air strikes against the enemy's positions, troop concentrations, and vehicles opposite our forward positions in the Maysan operational sectors and against enemy military targets deep inside its territory, scoring direct and effective hits. All of our fighter planes returned safely to base after successfully accomplishing their missions.
3. Our helicopters today attacked enemy troop concentrations, tanks, and various vehicles in the Maysan operational sector, inflicting grave losses, the observed portion of which amounted to 6 tanks, 11 armored personnel carriers, 16 huge vehicles carrying hardware and personnel, 1 fuel tank, 1 excavator, and 12 enemy concentrations. All of our helicopters returned safely to base.
4. Two were killed in the central operational sector.
5. Using artillery, the evil Khomeyni clique today shelled Basra, Mandali, and Zurbatiyah, damaging some civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 February 1983

No 998

JN121714 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1636 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 12 Feb (INA) -- Iraqi fighter planes today carried out 107 combat missions during which they attacked enemy positions and concentrations in the Maysan operational sector and important military targets deep inside Iran. This was announced tonight in military Communique No 998, issued by the Iraqi armed forces general command. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No. 998 issued by the armed forces general command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

By choosing the path of evil, expansion, and aggression against great Iraq and the glorious Arab nation, the heretic rulers of Iran choose the path of death, humiliation, and infliction of further destruction and disasters on the Iranian peoples and their forces. The results of the activities carried out in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded the enemy positions and personnel opposite our positions in the Maysan operational sector, killing 57 and wounding or capturing others.
2. All day long our valiant pilots continued their fierce attacks and painful blows to the enemy positions and troop concentrations in the Maysan sector and other important targets deep inside Iran, inflicting large losses on enemy vehicles, equipment, and personnel. The echo of explosions could be heard and the fire could be seen as our raiding aircraft hit and destroyed the enemy targets. All our brave pilots returned safely to base with their aircraft, thanks be to God. Today's combat missions totalled 107.
3. An Iranian 1st lieutenant and a civilian sought refuge with one of our forward units in the northern sector of the battlefield in an attempt to escape from Khomeyni's hell and his bloody regime's despotism. The two have been transferred to the sector's rear lines after being assured complete safety.
4. Four were killed and several others wounded in the central sector of the battlefield.
5. One was killed and four infantry positions destroyed east of Basra.
6. Today the evil Khomeyniite clique shelled the city of Mandali and the village of Zurbatiyah with artillery, martyring one child, wounding six civilians -- including two women -- and damaging two houses and one private automobile in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 February 1983

No 999

JN131654 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA) -- Iraqi fighter planes today carried out intensive and daring air strikes against the Iranian enemy's positions and concentrations in the Maysan operational sector, inflicting grave losses.

Iraqi Communique No 999 issued here tonight noted that the Iraqi forward units attacked enemy positions and concentrations in the Maysan and Mandali sectors. The communique put the Iranian losses during the past 24 hours at 34 dead; a number of wounded and prisoners; and 1 observation post, 1 stockpile of hardware, 1 arms depot, and 1 infantry position destroyed. The communique said that the Iranian enemy today shelled Basra and Mandali with artillery, damaging a house in Mandali. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 999 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our armed forces, which are known for their valor, chivalry, and allegiance to the people, homeland and nation continued their brave operations in the operational sectors against the racist Iranian enemy forces. The following are the results for last night and today:

1. Using various types of weapons, our forward units pounded enemy positions and concentrations in the Maysan operational sector, killing 22, wounding and capturing several others, and destroying and burning up 1 stockpile of hardware.
2. Our able fighter planes, all day today, continued to deal intensive and daring air strikes against the enemy positions and concentrations in the Maysan operational sector, inflicting grave losses. All of our fighter planes returned safely to base.
3. A force of our forward units raided an enemy concentration in the central operational sector, killing nine, wounding a number of others and destroying an infantry position. Three enemy soldiers were killed in the same sector.
4. One observation post and an arms depot were destroyed in the area east of Basra.
5. Today in an intermittent manner, the spiteful enemy, using artillery, shelled Basra and Mandali, damaging a house in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 February 1983

SPOKESMAN SAYS 15,258 IRANIANS KILLED 6-10 FEBRUARY

JN130949 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0910 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] A responsible military source in the Armed Forces General Command has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Truly strong is the grip and power of thy lord [Koranic verse]

The total known enemy losses in lives and equipment in the glorious Ash-Shib battles in the Maysan operational sector during the period 6-10 February are as follows:

1. Personnel losses: 15,258 killed, very large numbers of wounded and large numbers taken prisoner.
2. Equipment destroyed or captured: 98 tanks, some serviceable and others destroyed; 84 vehicles of various types; some serviceable and others destroyed; 40 excavators, some serviceable and others destroyed; 4 ditch diggers (qashshatah) and 1 missile launcher; large quantities of weapons and military hardware.

By these reckless adventures, the bloody Khomeyniite clique has involved itself, its armed forces and the afflicted Iranian peoples in evil designs of expansion which can never be achieved. The huge losses it has sustained at the hands of our valiant armed forces are tantamount to mass suicide of the enemy's defeated forces. Their insistence on their stands of evil and aggression against the sovereignty and independence of beloved Iraq and the Arab nation's brilliant future will bring on them and on the Iranian people more tragedies and destruction. Those who have forewarned will be excused. 13 February 1983.

CPSU'S BRUTENTS, DELEGATION DEPART 11 FEB

JN111945 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] A Soviet delegation led by Karen Brutents, deputy head of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department, left here this evening at the end of a visit of several days to the country. In a predeparture statement, Brutents underlined the importance of further bolstering the militant relations between the two friendly countries. He condemned Israel's aggressive policy in the region, stressing that Israel is a base for U.S. imperialism. He reiterated that the Soviet Union stands alongside the Arab masses in their struggle to regain their usurped rights.

BEIRUT: KHADDAM MADE SECRET VISIT TO MOSCOW

NC120717 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources have reported that Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has made a quick secret visit to Moscow in the past few days. The sources added that Khaddam, who returned to Damascus the day before yesterday, discussed with Soviet officials the developments of the situation in the area and the increased Israeli threats to Syria.

ATH-THAWRAH ON ISRAELI THREATS OF AGGRESSION

JN120935 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Feb 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israel's Threats To Carry Out Aggression Against Syria Are Part of the U.S. Conspiracy Against the Region," ATH-THAWRAH says: News agencies are reporting new troop reinforcements in Al-Biqa' and are saying that the Zionist invaders are setting up additional tank and artillery positions on Al-Baruk mountain. These preparations for aggression, also confirmed by UN sources in Beirut, indicate that Israel is proceeding with its preparations for aggression against Syria in spite of world public opinion's anxiety and warnings, exploiting U.S. support to cover its escalation of tension in the region and the possible consequences of its military provocations that pose a threat to peace and security in the region and the world at large. The paper adds: It is not strange that the Israeli preparations for aggression are coinciding with the return of U.S. envoy Philip Habib to the region. Observers believe that the principal part of Habib's talks with the Zionist leaders focused on the form of the new Israeli aggression, particularly since the United States always times the missions of its envoys to the region with the Israeli escalation of aggression and utilizes its policy to serve the results of the aggression and exploit them. Washington has placed its tools in the region in a state of alert and entrusted the Mubarak regime with a new role in the conspiracy, some points of which became evident through the current coordination between the Camp David alliance and Saddam Husayn's regime in Baghdad to define the role of the agents in the next phase of the conspiracy for aggression. ATH-THAWRAH says: Syria, which lies in wait for the forces that are hostile to the Arab nation and the overt and covert schemes of aggression, realizes very well that its steadfast stand and its confrontation of the U.S.-Zionist attempts to impose hegemony over the region and of the capitulatory and liquidatory schemes have made it a target. Out of self-confidence and a commitment to principles, Syria will not give in to any pressure or threats, will not bargain on the pan-Arab cause and will pursue its decisive stand with firmness and strength because, by doing this, it is expressing the will of the Arab masses whose full support it enjoys and because it is also supported by all the peace- and freedom-loving forces in the world.

CONTINUED REACTION TO INQUIRY COMMISSION'S FINDINGS

Begin-Sharon Meeting

TA131828 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin met this evening with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon to discuss the appointments that have to be made in the wake of the Kahan commission's findings. Earlier today it was announced that the prime minister has assumed the function of defense minister while Ari'el Sharon became minister without portfolio. From outside the prime minister's residence, Alan Ben-'Ami reports:

[Ben-'Ami] Prime Minister Begin will formally take charge of the defense portfolio tomorrow after receiving parliamentary approval for the changeover. Tonight he met for about an hour with outgoing Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon. Afterwards I asked Mr Sharon what he had discussed:

[Begin recording] [Sharon] I had a long meeting with the prime minister after the Cabinet resolution of this morning to transfer the task of minister of defense to the prime minister, to discuss several problems which we are dealing with now in the Ministry of Defense, and we have done it in the same way that should be done when a thing like that happens.

[Question] Mr Sharon, what do you see as being the duty that you will be doing now?

[Answer] Myself? I am going to stay a member of the Cabinet and I will be doing things that the prime minister will ask me to do.

[Question] Have you discussed any of those duties tonight with the prime minister?

[Answer] No, not yet. We had so many questions and problems to discuss, I would say regular problems we have been dealing with during the last 20 months. That is why that point has not yet been discussed.

[Question] What do you say is the priority issue now at the Defense Ministry?

[Answer] Look, there are so many problems. The prime minister is familiar with them and I believe that everything will be in order. Thank you. [end recording]

Peres on Commission Conclusions

TA112058 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1820 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by Nisim Mish'al on 11 February; place not given -- videotaped]

[Text] [Question] The Cabinet decided to adopt the recommendations of the commission of inquiry. Are you satisfied with the decision? As far as you are concerned, is this the end of the affair?

[Answer] In my opinion, the Cabinet has not implemented the conclusions of the commission of inquiry. Regarding the defense minister, there are two conclusions: A) Within the framework of his personal, not ministerial, responsibility, he should draw the appropriate conclusions, namely, to resign; and B) If he does not resign, the Cabinet or the prime minister should dismiss him from his position. The commission knows that there could be another possibility, in other words, transferring him to another position. However, it chose the clause which calls on the prime minister to dismiss Ari'el Sharon.

I am proposing, I am appealing to the government to be particular about implementing the commission's conclusion. The ministers are not superior to justices and party centers are surely not a supreme court. The same holds true regarding the discharging of the defense minister's duties. Since the commission did not lack criticism about the way the prime minister discharged his duties as prime minister, it is inconceivable that in such a tense period in the State of Israel there would not be a full-time defense minister.

[Question] Can I understand from your remarks that Prime Minister Begin cannot fulfill the defense minister's role?

[Answer] In my opinion, in light of the commission's conclusions, the prime minister certainly cannot fulfill both roles simultaneously.

[Question] You probably remember better than I do that for long years in the State of Israel it was customary for a prime minister to also serve as defense minister. You can surely remember the era of David Ben-Gurion and of Levi Eshkol. What was objectionable about serving in these two positions then?

[Answer] My dear friend, some things have happened since then: the Yom Kippur war, the Lebanese war, and so on. We have learned something. What happened in Lebanon, in light of the commission's conclusions, this calls for serious consideration of matters. This is no game of ministerial roles.

[Question] If the Cabinet rejects your demand...

[Answer] It is not our demand. This is the implementation of the commission's conclusions.

[Question] Do you possess means with which you can attain your goal? Do you intend to take parliamentary action such as joining the Shinuy movement in submitting a motion of nonconfidence against the government?

[Answer] It is our duty to be on guard so that the commission's conclusions are implemented in full. We will surely act within the parliamentary framework. As far as a motion of nonconfidence is concerned, we will wait until Sunday -- I hope the government will still implement all conclusions -- and will consider our path then.

[Question] A question which relates to the Alignment: The Alignment hoped -- and this was reflected in informal talks -- that following the commission of inquiry affair it would be able to replace the government. Do you still see a chance of replacing the government?

[Answer] The Alignment decided to separate the two issues: to distinguish between its task as a movement which guards the principles of the State of Israel and its existence as an alternative to the present government. At this stage we decided to focus on one issue only: to see that truth stands above all else, that law and justice underline the running of affairs in this country. Neither today nor tomorrow will we be tempted to deal with another issue before the commission's conclusions are fully implemented.

[Question] Assuming that the conclusions are implemented, do you see a chance of replacing the government?

[Answer] The problem is not only one of chances of replacing the government. I think that 1983 is a decisive year in the history of our country. If this year elapses and nothing changes and the settlements continue, I will then be very pessimistic about the chances of peace. We will do our best to change the policy and, if possible, to replace the present government too. This is part of the effort to have us adopt a new and correct policy.

[Question] Have there been contacts between you and other parties over the past week with the aim of consolidating a change, of replacing the government so as to change the policy you are talking about?

[Answer] My answer is an unequivocal no. We have not maintained, nor will we maintain, any contacts with other parties before the conclusions are implemented. We are clearly separating the two issues and will not be tempted to do anything else.

Labor on Cabinet Decision

TAL31337 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] The Labor Party has said that the prime minister gave in to the putsch atmosphere by keeping Sharon in his cabinet. The party's reaction team released a statement saying that the prime minister is a man of honor only when the honor does not require paying a price. The Labor Party said that leaving Sharon in the cabinet is nothing other than a dubious ruse which completely contravenes the letter and spirit of the commission of inquiry's conclusions.

The Labor Party's young guard called on the liberal figures of the NRP and Tami to listen to the voice of their conscience over short-term party considerations and get Sharon removed from the cabinet. They said that Ari'el Sharon, the conceiver and executor of the war in Lebanon, is a national disaster and that those seeking the country's good must not help him stay at the helm of state one moment longer than necessary.

Alignment Demands Sharon Resignation

TAL30529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] The Alignment is demanding that Ari'el Sharon be fired from the Cabinet. It was decided in a debate held by Alignment leaders in Tel Aviv that the decision to leave Sharon in the Cabinet means that the Kahan commission recommendations have not been fully complied with.

The faction centers of all the Alignment components will meet today to endorse decisions that would demand that the Cabinet implement all the recommendations.

During the debate Shim'on Peres said that no member of his party has been authorized to organize meetings between himself and the prime minister. This was his reaction to the report alleging that the Alignment and National Religious Party representatives have decided to initiate rapprochement between the two personalities.

Mapam Secretary General Victor Shemtov has said that as a result of the Kahan commission recommendations, the prime minister, too, cannot continue in office. He suggested that the Alignment vote nonconfidence in the Cabinet and rejected any dialogue between Menahem Begin and Shim'on Peres.

Eytan: IDF Takes Action

TA130547 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] Chief of Staff General Refa'el Eytan says the army has started taking action to prevent the kinds of errors pointed out by the Kahan commission. He declared the army and its commanders are strong enough to overcome the situation created by the commission report. He said it is understood that the problems are not just personal ones. Gen Eytan also declared that Israel's army can walk proudly since it is a moral army.

The chief of staff refused to talk about the commission's findings about himself.

Sharon Adviser on Transfer

TA131541 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] The defense minister's media adviser, Uri Dan, has reacted to Ari'el Sharon's being transferred from the post of defense minister, saying that those who did not want Sharon as chief of staff got him as defense minister; those who do not want him as defense minister will get him as prime minister. Uri Dan was speaking to our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal.

This afternoon the defense minister parted with the head of the IDF intelligence branch, Major General Yehoshu'a Sagi. In the late afternoon Prime Minister Menahem Begin will meet with Sharon and Sagi.

Arens Accepts Defense Portfolio

TA140953 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0950 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Israel's ambassador to the United States, Moshe Arens, has agreed to take the defense portfolio. This has been announced by the head of the prime minister's office, Yehi'el Qadishay. Mr Qadishay said that Arens would return to Israel within a few days in order to assume the post and receive the Knesset's endorsement.

SYRIA GETTING NEW WEAPONS FROM USSR, ADVISERS

TA111832 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] Syria has been receiving vast quantities of Soviet-supplied arms in recent weeks to replenish stocks lost in last summer's Lebanese fighting. The Voice of Israel's Arab affairs reporter says that in addition to SAM-5's, Russia has sent shipments of a new air-to-air missile capable of downing aircraft up to 100 km away. The farthest-flying air combat missile known to be in Israeli inventory is said to have a range of only 65 km.

Syria has also received more improved MIG-23 fighter-bombers, T-72 tanks, and an air defense system complete with Soviet technicians and advisers.

PROGRESS REPORTED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH LEBANON

TA131356 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1345 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] Seventy percent of the issues have already been solved in the direct negotiations over the security arrangements with Lebanon. This was reported at the cabinet session by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on behalf of Major General Avraham Tamir. Shamir added that Ambassador Philip Habib had proposed that a series of intensive contacts be held in order to accelerate the negotiations. Indeed, the steering team will convene soon in order to give renewed momentum to these contacts. It was not reported in the Cabinet session whether the U.S. ambassador had brought any new proposals.

NIGERIAGOVERNMENT ASKED TO DEPORT ALL ILLEGAL ALIENS

AB102144 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] The Federal Government has been called upon to deport all illegal aliens no matter which countries they came from. The call was made today by the secretary to the Kano state government, Alhaji Sule Yahaya Hama, when the new assistance director immigrations in the state, Alhaji Admir Kadura Adeyu, called on him in his office. Alhaji Sule observed that the Federal Government quit order on illegal aliens was only limited to those from the ECOWAS states. He noted that there were many aliens from countries outside Africa, such as Europe, Asia and America, illegally residing in the country. The secretary accused the BBC and the Western press of criticizing Nigeria for expelling illegal immigrants in the country.

Nigerians Approve of Deportations

AB110915 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] A survey just concluded by a team of Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria [FRCN] reporters and correspondents shows that the deportation of illegal aliens from Nigeria has been very popular. According to the survey, the exit of illegal aliens has drastically reduced unemployment as thousands of Nigerians have got in the shoes of the deportees. Some of the employers interviewed confirmed that the new employees were effectively and satisfactorily carrying out their assignments. Some law enforcement agents interviewed said that the exit of the illegal aliens has also drastically reduced the wave of crime, lawlessness, and immorality throughout Nigeria.

The federal capital of Lagos and most state capitals are now enjoying peace and tranquility, the law enforcement agents added. Some teachers were also interviewed. Most of them remarked that the absence of illegal alien teachers, who accepted any salaries, has relaxed teaching qualifications which restored the lost dignity of the Nigerian teachers. According to the teachers, most school authorities will now employ Nigerian teachers who will deliver better lessons with the right Nigerian accent and thus reduce graduate unemployment.

Some of the traders pointed out that the cost of the food items which the illegal aliens usually transported to Ghana, Togo, and Benin has already started to decline. It was also discovered that some Nigerian traders were hoarding some food items in an attempt to raise the price and turn around to blame it on measures being taken by the Federal Government to distabilize the economy.

WITHDRAWAL OF ALL NIGERIAN PASSPORTS URGED

AB100938 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] A call has been made for the withdrawal of all Nigerian passports in circulation. The president of the Kano state Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Alhaji Abdul Karim A. (Beyiade), who made the call, said this is necessary in view of the recent disclosure by the minister of internal affairs that Nigerian passports were being sold in Zaire.

Alhaji Abdul Karim suggested that fresh passports should be issued on strict conditions. He also called on the government to consider the commercialization of passports as criminal as well as the need to reorganize the Nigerian Embassy in Zaire.

IBADAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS GO ON RAMPAGE

AB101712 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] Students of the University of Ibadan yesterday went on a wild demonstration which lasted up to the early hours of today. The students, who were protesting against lack of water, bad meals, and the immediate removal of the vice chancellor, damaged university properties, which were in the vice chancellor's lodge, hostels, and classroom blocks, and the university records. From Ibadan, Rabi'u Bako with the story:

When we were going round the campus, almost all the roads were sprayed with foodstuffs, mainly rice and gari. At the students affairs building, some provisions were also looted. The most affected halls are the female halls. At the Queen's Hall, some Louvre glasses were broken, doors were also damaged and the students were molested, as it was narrated by one of the students. [passage indistinct]

[Question] There was a case of rape. Is it true?

[Answer] No, not in this room. [passage indistinct] Most of the students at the hall were all packing at the time we went to the place. Some of the female students, we understood, were also insulted. The situation at the campus is now tense. We were told that the vice chancellor had to run for his dear life when the demonstrating students went to his house. The students were demonstrating because of lack of water, bad meal and all toilets, they said, were smelling. And also, they are asking for the removal of the vice chancellor, Professor (Olajuana Olaide), from office. By all indications, the university must be closed down by the university authorities.

University Closed

AB110827 Lagos NAN in English 0807 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] Ibadan, Feb 10, (NAN) -- The University of Ibadan has been closed down indefinitely following the students' violent demonstration yesterday. In a statement in Ibadan today, the registrar of the university, Chief I. Ekanem-Ita, said that the Senate of the institution took the decision after considering the present situation on the campus. Chief Ekanem-Ita said that the students of the university at the Alexander Brown Hall of the College of Medicine were not affected by the closure.

The registrar said that the curfew imposed on the campus would be in force from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. until further notice. He said that the Senate would meet on February 21 to review the situation and thereafter issue further directives. A correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) who visited the campus today said reported that the students were already moving out of the campus.

The students began demonstrating yesterday during which they destroyed vehicles and household property in the university for alleged lack of water, irregular supply of electricity, and poor feeding. Access roads to the university and the road leading to the vice chancellor's lodge were littered with broken bottles while a food store near the lodge was broken into and bags of rice emptied on the ground.

The president of the students' union, Femi Falana, was not available for comments as he was said to be attending a meeting.

LESOTHOMAIN GASOLINE DEPOT DESTROYED; LLA BLAMED

MB140658 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 0600 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] One of the main gasoline depots in Maseru, Lesotho has been destroyed in a bomb explosion. Radio Lesotho reports that the bomb exploded just before midnight at the Caltex depot in the industrial area of Maseru. The fire erupted after the explosion destroyed the depot completely. It raged for several hours as firemen tried in vain to get it under control. Radio Lesotho says it is believed that the Lesotho Liberation Army, the military wing of the Basutoland Congress Party, which is prohibited in Lesotho, is responsible.

'Enemy' Hitting 'Economic Targets'

MB141031 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Radio Lesotho has attributed the attack to the Lesotho Liberation Army. The radio said several vehicles were seen on the South African side of the Caledon River. A helicopter was also reported to have been hovering over the burning depot. A Lesotho Government official said it was clear that in his words the enemy is now concentrating on economic targets as it is doing in Angola and Mozambique. This is seen as a reference to South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICABLAST DAMAGES DRAKENSBURG ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

MB121020 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] A bomb blast has damaged the offices of the Drakensburg Administration Board in Sobantu village, Pietermaritzburg. Reports this morning say the bomb went off this morning on the lawn behind the building. In Sobantu last year there were extensive protests over the administration board which has authority over the area, and the administration board proposed rent hikes. No group has claimed responsibility for yesterday's blast, the second in Pietermaritzburg this year. At the end of last month an explosion caused considerable damage to the historic Supreme Court building in the city.

SWAZILANDPOLICE THWART UNSUCCESSFUL COUP ATTEMPT

MB141100 Johannesburg CITY PRESS in English 13 Feb 83 pp 1, 4

[By Desmond Blow]

[Text] Mbabane -- A bid to oust the Swazi prime minister, Prince Mabandla Dlamini, was thwarted when loyal police cordoned off Mbabane and stopped arms from entering the city. The affair, which happened last weekend, has been hushed up although it is believed some arms were confiscated.

The crisis was sparked by Prince Mabandla's decision to reshuffle his cabinet to weaken the clique of powerful dissidents.

Prince Mabandla has already fired one of his senior ministers who is due to be sent overseas as an ambassador. The reshuffle has seriously weakened Mabandla's opposition and this is what led to the coup bid last Friday. But Prince Mabandla got wind of it and the attempt was nipped in the bud.

None of the PM's powerful enemies have yet been arrested. But Prince Mabandla's patience is said to have run out and it is expected he will take strong measures against the dissidents. Last December he re-introduced detention without trial, which he abolished after he took power in 1979.

Prince Mabandla has angered several powerful people with his progressive and democratic views. When he was appointed by the late King Sobhuza, he freed political prisoners and set up an inquiry into corruption in the government. Although the findings have not been made public, these practices have diminished.

Government Denies Coup Attempt

MB140604 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 14 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister, Prince Mabandla has denied any knowledge of a coup attempt reported to have been foiled by police last week. He said he had not been informed about any attempts to oust him from office. Police commissioner, Mr Titus Msibi, rejected the report as nonsense in a South African newspaper that the police had foiled the coup. Mr Msibi also denied that the police had stopped arms from entering Mbabane. "Is Mbabane so small that it could have been cordoned?" asked Mr Msibi.

They were reacting to a report in the Golden City newspaper which said a bid to oust the prime minister was thwarted when loyal police cordoned Mbabane and stopped arms from entering the town. If such a cordon or any unusual movement of police did take place, he said the residents of Mbabane would have been the first to know about it. The last time the police were on patrol in Mbabane, he said was during the Christmas season. "Even then, they were unarmed," he said. Mr Msibi said such reports could only come from those who have all along expected trouble in the country, but to their disappointment peace and stability still prevailed.

The coup attempt, according to the Golden City report, happened a week ago. It said although the matter had been hushed up, it was believed some arms were confiscated. The report claimed that the crisis was sparked by Prince Mabandla's decision to reshuffle his cabinet to weaken what it called "the clique of powerful dissidents." It also claimed that Prince Mabandla has already fired one of his senior ministers who said it was due to be sent overseas as an ambassador [as published].

The re-shuffle the report said has seriously weakened Prince Mabandla's opposition and that this is what led to the coup bid on Friday last week. "But Prince Mabandla got wind of it and the attempt was nipped in the bud," the report said. It also said none of the prime minister's powerful enemies have been arrested yet. It claimed that his patience was said to have run out and that it was expected that he would take strong measures against the dissidents.

The report also claimed that the prime minister had angered several powerful people with his progressive and democratic views.